Level V

Calendar No. 1073

82D CONGRESS, 2d Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 1138

INVESTIGATION OF AIRPLANE ACCIDENT AT ELIZABETH, N. J., AND MATTERS RELATING TO NEWARK AIRPORT

JANUARY 30 (legislative day, JANUARY 10), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. JOHNSON of Colorado, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. Res. 268]

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to whom was referred the resolution (S. Res. 268) authorizing an investigation of the cause of the airplane accident at Elizabeth, N. J., on January 22, 1952, and matters relating to the Newark Airport, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the resolution do pass.

On January 22, 1952, a commercial aircraft approaching the Newark Airport crashed at Elizabeth, N. J., killing all 23 persons aboard, including former Secretary of War Robert Patterson, and 6 residents of the city who were trapped in their homes.

Immediately, on the following day, the distinguished Senators from New Jersey (Mr. Smith and Mr. Hendrickson) submitted Senate Concurrent Resolution 55 calling for the establishment of a joint congressional committee, to investigate the tragedy, the joint committee to be composed of five Members of the Senate who are members of the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce and five Members of the House to be selected from the membership of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. That resolution was referred to your committee, and its chairman immediately assigned two of the committee's four professional staff members to the exclusive task of investigating the Newark crash.

It was the opinion of your committee, after preliminary consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 55, that inasmuch as a concurrent resolution such as this would require action by both the Senate and the House of Representatives with resultant delay and loss of time in getting the investigation under way the simpler and

more expeditious approach to the problem would be for the New Jersey Senators, who have given a great deal of time and attention to this matter, and who have been pressing the committee hard for early action, to introduce a simple Senate resolution which would not require time-consuming action by the other House. The matter was discussed with both New Jersey Senators with the result that Senate Resolution 268, herewith reported, was submitted.

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